

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda November 13, 2025

Item 6-C: Review and Approve Revised Recreation and Park Fees for Calendar Year 2026. Recreation and Parks 10051400)

Letter to ARPD Board

My name is Randell Sharpe. I live at 242 Inverness Ct., Alameda, CA. I have been a resident of Alameda for over 30 years. I am and have been a member of the Alameda Aquatic Masters (AAM) swim team for most of those 30 years. My daughter grew up here in Alameda and was a member of an Alameda youth swim team and now as an adult participates in the sport of swimming as a master's swimmer. Masters swimming is a lifetime sport where swimmers come together to encourage each other in both a social and competitive setting to maintain our health and well-being, both physically and mentally.

It has been brought to my attention that ARPD is proposing a 30% fee increase for 2026, and another 23.7% increase on top of that for 2027, for AAM's use of the pool. This is not an equitable increase on multiple levels. We are a local nonprofit organization just like the youth swim team and water polo organizations. All the nonprofit swimming organizations should be treated equally. The proposed 30% annual increase is excessive. This increase directed only on the master's team is unfair.

The rate increases are also not equitable compared to the drop in lap swimmer rates. AAM currently pays \$1,108.25 for our time using the pool on a weekly basis for 15.5 hours of use of 6 lanes weekly plus the hourly lifeguard fees. That equates to 221.65 lap swimmer hours a week at the standard \$5.00 hourly rate. We average around 180 actual lap swimmer hours a week. This means we are paying approximately 22% more for our nonprofit team use of the pool than residents that drop in and only pay the hourly fee. That assumes that everyone on the team is under 50 years old. Our membership is made up of 50% seniors. Which only pay a further reduced rate for lap swimming. If we all quit the AAM team and just use the pool during lap swim times it would cost the city between 25% and 50% of the revenue they currently receive from the team. If your goal is to eliminate the masters swim team from Alameda and reduce revenue that the masters pay the city, then you are on the right track. **I hope this is not the case!**

It is fiscally irresponsible for you to continue with this proposal and unfair to the residents of Alameda. You should charge all the nonprofit teams that use the swim facilities at the same fair rate. You should charge the drop in swimmers that use the swim facilities a rate that is on the same level as what you charge the teams.

Thank you for understanding my position. I hope to continue to participate with the AAM swim team here in Alameda for many years to come. It would be a shame to see it close down due to unfair fees levied by ARPD.



Randell Sharpe
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CC: City Council

From: Caitlin Keen <caitykeen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Justin Long <jlong@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission meeting 11/13- pool lane rentals

Dear Mr. Long,

I'm writing as an Alameda resident and member of Alameda Aquatic Masters (AAM) to ask for your support regarding the proposed pool lane rental rate increases for 2026 and 2027. I feel strongly about this issue, but have a work performance and am unable to attend the meeting in person or online, as I would prefer.

As a parent of three small children with highly variable work hours, AAM has become the main way I exercise. The structured workouts and camaraderie keep me going in ways that lap swimming alone never could—I simply don't work as hard without the team. While I'm not a fast swimmer and I'm very recreational, the social connections I've built are invaluable, providing stress relief and community that sustain me as both a parent and professional. If these rates are approved, AAM will need to either increase member dues substantially or cut lane space and practice times. Either option makes the program less accessible for people like me and future Alameda residents.

The proposed fee schedule would raise AAM's lane rental rates by 62% over two years—from \$57,629 (2025) to \$92,690 (2027). This threatens a program that has served our community for 42 years.

What concerns me is the inequity in this proposal. AAM would pay significantly more than youth nonprofit teams (I am also a parent of a Gators swimmer) for the same lane space, even though we're both nonprofit programs serving Alameda residents. Meanwhile, individual lap swim rates remain below market rates. This unfairly burdens organized adult aquatics while subsidizing individual swimmers.

AAM is Alameda's longest-running aquatics program. Our membership is 85% Alameda residents, 50% seniors, and 54% women. We provide coached swimming for adults of all abilities—filling a gap not covered by ARPD's youth or recreation programs.

I'm asking you to apply the same nonprofit rate to both youth and adult resident teams. Aligning AAM's rate with youth teams would provide about \$26,000 in annual relief—a small fraction of expected revenues from the new Alameda City Aquatic Center.

As Alameda taxpayers, we already fund these pools. Adult residents deserve the same treatment as the youth programs we support.

Thank you for considering this and for your dedication to Alameda's recreation programs. I hope we can find an equitable solution that keeps adult aquatics accessible in our community.

Best,
Caitlin Keen
547 Pacific Ave, Alameda
510-228-4652

Alameda Aquatic Masters
November 12, 2025

To: Alameda Recreation and Parks Commission
From: Alameda Aquatic Masters Board of Directors
Subject: Lane Rental Rate Equity for Alameda's Adult Nonprofit Aquatics Programs

Dear Commissioners,

Alameda Aquatic Masters (AAM) is a **42-year-old Alameda-based nonprofit** providing year-round coached swimming for adult residents. We support the move to per-lane rental rates, but the proposed rate increases create an inequitable burden on adult nonprofit programs like ours.

Under the proposed structure, AAM would pay **nearly double** for the same lane space, with annual costs rising from **\$57,629 in 2025 to \$92,690 in 2027**. This would force significant fee hikes and reduced practice hours, threatening a long-standing community program that serves 136 members — 50% of whom are seniors. Such increases would make masters swimming **increasingly inaccessible** to Alameda residents and taxpayers, undermining a city-based program that has supported the community for over four decades.

While ARPD offers aquatic fitness programs, it does not provide an adult swim training program. AAM fulfills this need by offering coached workouts for **adults of all abilities** — from beginners to competitive swimmers — helping residents stay active and connected through swimming. Masters swimming provides the **same community benefit** as youth aquatics programs, lap swim, and swim lessons, fostering health, discipline, and lifelong participation in a safe, structured environment.

The proposed adult nonprofit rates **exceed market rates** (see Exhibit A) charged by other East Bay cities, while youth programs, lap swim, and swim lessons in Alameda remain at or below regional market levels. This disparity places an **unfair financial burden** on adult community programs that serve local residents.

We respectfully request that the Commission recommend **eliminating the “Adult Resident Team”** category and applying the **Youth Resident Team rate** to all Alameda-based nonprofit aquatic programs.

Aligning AAM's rate with youth nonprofits would provide about **\$26,000 in annual relief** — a modest adjustment that sustains a 42-year community program without significantly affecting city revenue.

Thank you for considering this request to ensure fairness and continued access for Alameda's adult swimmers.

Sincerely,
Alameda Aquatic Masters Board of Directors

Exhibit A

Pool Fee Comparison

City	Pool Type(s)	Youth Rate	Adult Rate	Lifeguard Fees	16 hours per week, 6 lanes cost	
Alameda	9-12 lane 25 yard	\$10/lane/hr	\$15/lane/hr*	\$25/guard/hr	\$1,840	*Equivalent to \$19.17/hr/ln with lifeguard
Oakland	6 lane 25 yard	\$51/hr	\$51/hr	Included	\$816	Source
Albany	10 lane 25 yard	\$10/lane/hr	\$10/lane/hr	Included if under 26 swimmers	\$960	Source
San Ramon	50m, 50m, 6 lane 25 yard	\$12/lane/hr	\$12/lane/hr	Included	\$1,056	Source
Emeryville	6 lane 25 yard	\$30-\$42/hr	\$30-\$42/hr	\$21/hr	\$1,008	Source
Dublin	11 lane 25 yard	\$13/lane/hr	\$13/lane/hr	Included	\$1,248	Source
Walnut Creek	50m	Negotiated	\$9/lane/hr	Included	\$864	Source
Pleasant Hill	6 lane 25 yard	\$85/hr	\$85/hr	Includes 1 guard	\$1,360	Source
San Leandro (School District)	12 lane 25 yard	\$58.30/hr	\$58.30/hr	\$25.95/hr	\$1,348 (for 12 lanes)	Source